

REMARKS

Summary

This Amendment is responsive to the Advisory Action mailed on February 3, 2006 and the final Office Action mailed on September 29, 2005. Claims 1-71 are pending. Claims 1 and 36 are amended herein.

The Advisory Action mailed on February 3, 2006 indicated that the Amendment filed by Applicants on November 21, 2005 raised new issues and would not be entered. The Advisory Action also pointed out a typographical error in the November 21, 2006 Amendment, namely that original claim 56 should depend from claim 36 and not from claim 56 as indicated therein. The amended claims of this current Amendment are the same as those set forth in the November 21, 2006 Amendment, except that the dependency of claim 56 is corrected back to its original form.

As a preliminary matter, Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for the courteous and productive telephone interview held on October 27, 2005, the details of which are set forth below.

Claims 1-6, 8-12, 18-41, 43-47, and 52-71 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(ab) as being anticipated by Fujita (US 5,315,523) in view of Schwenke (US 6,553,268).

Claims 7 and 42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fujita in view of Schwenke and Frey (US 5,691,909).

Claims 13-17 and 48-51 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fujita in view of Schwenke and Kuni (US 5,586,224).

Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections in view of the amended claims and the following comments.

Summary of October 27, 2005 Telephone Interview

Applicants' undersigned counsel conducted a telephone interview with the Examiner to discuss proposed claim amendments in order to overcome the rejections in view of Fujita and Schwenke. As discussed with the Examiner, neither Fujita or Schwenke disclose a method or system for generating a control program for a machine tool which provides a machine display for presenting a visualization of a workpiece and at least two virtual operating units, where the user

can specify virtual actions for at least one of the virtual operating units and visualize the at least two virtual operating units and the specified virtual action(s) of the at least one virtual operating unit on the machine display.

The Examiner acknowledged that Fujita only discloses a visualization of the workpiece and the tool, but not the visualization of at least two operating units of a machine tool. Further, the Examiner acknowledged that Figure 7A of Schwenke discloses only a block diagram showing the hierarchical relationship between various parts of an assembly line including machine tools. The Examiner further acknowledged that Schwenke does not show an actual visualization of the machine tools or a visualization of any movement of the operating units of the machine tool.

The Examiner agreed that neither Fujita or Schwenke discloses specifying virtual actions for at least one virtual operating and visualizing at least two virtual operating units and specified virtual action(s) of at least one virtual operating unit on the machine display. The Examiner indicated that amendments to claims 1 and 36 specifying the visualization of the movement of the virtual operating units would overcome the rejections based on Fujita and Schwenke.

Proposed amended claims were faxed to the Examiner for her consideration on October 27, 2005. The Examiner agreed that the proposed amendments would overcome the prior art of record, the Examiner indicated that a further search of the prior art would be necessary before a Notice of Allowance could issue.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner telephone Applicants' undersigned counsel in the event the Examiner undertakes a further search and locates additional prior art that would provide the basis for a further rejection of the claims before issuing a further Office Action.

Discussion of Amended Claims

The amendments made to claims 1 and 36 herein are similar to the proposed amended claims considered by the Examiner on October 27, 2005 pursuant to the above-described telephone interview.

In particular, Independent claim 1 is amended to specify that at least one of the virtual

operating units can be addressed by the user to specify virtual action(s) for the at least one virtual operating unit via a data input unit and that the at least two virtual operating units and the specified virtual action(s) of the at least one virtual operating unit are visualized on the machine display. Independent apparatus claim 36 is similarly amended.

As discussed and agreed with the Examiner, neither Fujita or Schwenke disclose or remotely suggest a method or system for generating a control program for a machine tool which provides a machine display for presenting a visualization of a workpiece and at least two virtual operating units, where the user can specify virtual actions for at least one of the virtual operating units in order to visualize the two virtual operating units and the specified virtual actions on the machine display/visualization device, as claimed by Applicants in amended independent claims 1 and 36.

With Applicants' claimed invention, by presenting a visualization of a workpiece, at least two virtual operating units, and the specified virtual actions of at least one of the virtual operating units on the machine display, the interaction between the two virtual operating units and the workpiece can be seen on the machine display. For example, if virtual actions are specified for only one operating unit, the display will provide a visualization of the interaction between the action or movement of that virtual operating unit, the workpiece, and the other virtual operating unit(s) for which no action has been specified. For example, by such a visualization, it can be determined if the actions specified for the virtual operating unit will cause it to collide with the other virtual operating unit(s) or with the workpiece. If virtual actions are specified for two or more virtual operating units, the visualization will allow a determination of how the movements of the two or more virtual operating units will interact and with each other and the workpiece, and whether there is any possibility for a collision of the operating units with each other or with the workpiece. No such visualization or display of the interaction between and among operating units and a workpiece is provided for in the prior art of record.

Applicants respectfully submit that the present invention is not anticipated by and would not have been obvious to one skilled in the art in view of Fujita, taken alone or in combination with Schwenke or any of the other prior art of record.

Further remarks regarding the asserted relationship between Applicant's claims and the

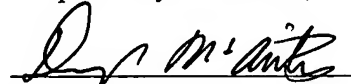
prior art are not deemed necessary, in view of the amended claims and the foregoing discussion. Applicants' silence as to any of the Examiner's comments is not indicative of an acquiescence to the stated grounds of rejection.

Withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C § 103(a) is therefore respectfully requested.

Conclusion

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider this application, allow each of the pending claims and to pass this application on to an early issue. If there are any remaining issues that need to be addressed in order to place this application into condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to telephone Applicants' undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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